

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (previously presented) A computerized method for interactive visual analysis of interactions among entities, where entities are individuals or groups, which comprises:

collecting interaction data;

computer processing said collected interaction data with connectivity and diversity measures, wherein connectivity is a measure for assessing how well entities are connected to their environments and diversity is a measure for assessing how diverse entities are in their interactions with or connections to their environment; and

displaying said processed interaction data and appropriate raw interaction data for interaction analyses.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting interaction data comprises use of network surveys.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting interaction data comprises monitoring of e-mail traffic.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting interaction data comprises monitoring of telephone traffic.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said collecting interaction data comprises monitoring of access to shared resources.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said connectivity measure is a recursive mathematical algorithm that employs a decay factor to account for the effects of indirect interactions among entities.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said connectivity measure employs the following mathematical formula:

$$C(E, L) = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq N} [w(k) + C(k, L-1)/f_d]$$

$$C(E, 0) = 0$$

where $C(E, L)$ denotes connectivity of entity E at depth L where E has N direct interactions, $w(k)$ is the weight of direct interactions from k , and f_d is the decay factor.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said diversity measure is a recursive mathematical algorithm that employs a decay factor to account for the effects of indirect interactions among entities.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said diversity measure employs the following mathematical formula:

$$D(E, L) = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq N} [v(k, p) + D(k, L-1)/f_d]$$

$$D(E, 0) = 0$$

where, $D(E, L)$ denotes diversity of entity E at depth L where E has N direct

interactions, and $v(k,p) = 0$ if the property of k along the diversity dimension of interest is already within p , where p is a set of properties encountered so far, including the property of E or otherwise, $v(k,p) = 1$.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating an organization view where interactions among entities of an organization are represented graphically.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating a group view where entities of a predefined group and their pre-specified attributes are represented graphically.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating an individual view where interactions relating to a specific entity are represented graphically.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating a cluster view where interactions among predefined units of entities are represented graphically.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating a people map where said connectivity and diversity measures for predefined units of entities are represented graphically.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said displaying said processed interaction data comprises generating a topical view where the view generated is dependent upon a predetermined interaction topic.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, which further comprises generating a report based on results of the interaction analysis.

17. (previously presented) A system for interactive visual analysis of interactions among entities, where entities are individuals or groups, which comprises:

a computer having a microprocessor and a storage unit;

a database electronically coupled to said computer for storing interaction data, auxiliary information and any additional data derived from said interaction data;

algorithms stored in said storage unit and operable by said microprocessor for measuring connectivity and diversity of entities based on their interactions, wherein connectivity is a measure for assessing how well entities are connected to their environments and diversity is a measure for assessing how diverse entities are in their interactions with or connections to their environment;

a set of programs for accessing interaction data and generating views dynamically;

a display screen electronically coupled to said computer for providing a user interface, said user interface providing appropriate controls for displaying and interactively manipulating each generated view;

a user input device electronically coupled to said computer; and

a user selectable element of said user interface being responsive to user input via said user input device to generate a report based on analysis results.